United Nations S/2017/633

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2017

Original: English

Identical letters dated 23 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to alert you to the horrific terror attack that took place in Israel this past Friday.

The Solomon family had gathered together for the traditional Friday night Sabbath meal and to celebrate the birth of a new grandson. The family's festivities turned quickly to bloodshed as a Palestinian terrorist entered their home. In cold blood, this terrorist murdered Yosef, the 70-year-old grandfather of the family, his daughter, Haya, and his son, Elad, all before the eyes of the other children and grandchildren. Tova Solomon, Yosef's wife, was badly wounded and remains in serious condition in a Jerusalem hospital.

Had it not been for the courage of Elad's wife, who hid the grandchildren in another room, and a neighbour, who heard the screams and came immediately to the rescue, this Palestinian terrorist would have massacred the entire Solomon family.

This heinous crime follows repeated calls by Palestinian officials and public leaders inciting violence and propagating dangerous charges against Israel. This latest wave of violence has resulted from false accusations by the Palestinian leadership surrounding recent events in Jerusalem.

On July 14, terrorists smuggled weapons on to the Temple Mount and murdered two Israeli policemen, Master Sergeant Haiel Sitawe and Master Sergeant Kamil Shnaan. Following this attack, Israel mounted metal detectors at the entrance to the Temple Mount to ensure the safety of all worshippers entering this sacred ground. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made clear that Israel has no intention to change the status quo arrangement at this holy site.

The use of metal detectors is part of the standard security measures employed at religious sites around the world, including at the Ka'bah in Mecca, the Vatican and the Western Wall in Jerusalem. In Indonesia, Kuwait and more, visitors must pass through rigorous security checks, including but not limited to metal detectors, to enter and pray. Despite this reality, the Palestinian leadership continues to spread erroneous charges that do nothing more than enrage the most extreme elements of Palestinian society and incite terror.

Friday's barbaric attack is directly linked to the Palestinian leadership's ruthless calls to violence, dissemination of propaganda, and long-standing policy and favour of the glorification of terror. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has publicly endorsed the payment of salaries to convicted terrorists and their families.

Please recycle

Schools are named for mass murderers, and monuments dedicated to these killers stand at the centres of Palestinian towns and villages. Palestinians in Gaza even celebrated to praise the terrorist guilty of Friday evening's horrific events. As a result, Palestinians are radicalized and encouraged to commit acts of "martyrdom" by killing innocent Israelis in cold blood.

The incitement of terror cannot continue. I call upon the Security Council to condemn this horrific terror attack. Furthermore, I call upon the Security Council to denounce the Palestinian Authority for its relentless encouragement of violence and for its glorification of terror.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2017/634

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 July 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 21 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 20-21 July 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) P. **Iliichev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (20 July 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire: five in Damascus governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported five violations in Damascus governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out three humanitarian operations in Aleppo city, where 3.6 tons of drinking water were delivered to the local population.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,130 people.

In total, 1,507 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 485 people.

One United Nations humanitarian operations was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, five ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas in Idlib governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,037.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (21 July 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire in Damascus governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported four violations in Damascus governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out seven humanitarian operations: six in Aleppo city, where 1.9 tons of bread and food parcels were delivered to the local population; and one operation in Homs governorate, where 1.3 tons of food parcels were delivered to the local population.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,001 people.

In total, 1,514 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 360 people.

One United Nations humanitarian operation was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,037.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

United Nations S/2017/635

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 24 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the forty-first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016) (S/2017/623).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates the concerns that it raised in its previous responses to reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the aforementioned Security Council resolutions.

The Syrian Government notes the relative improvement in the drafting of the current report, although it still falls short of the level required to demonstrate that the authors are credible, professional and objective. The report still fails to address in a serious manner the real reasons for the decline in the living standards and humanitarian situation of Syrians, including the terrorism that has been supported by well-known regimes and Governments from the region and beyond, the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian people by the United States of America, the European Union and other States, and interference by certain regional and international actors in Syrian affairs, with a view to prolonging the crisis and obstructing efforts to arrive at a peaceful political resolution through the Syrian-led political process that the United Nations has repeatedly endorsed.

The authors of the report acknowledge that the "Government continued to provide basic services to areas under its control and in many areas beyond its control". They furthermore acknowledge that the Syrian Government had approved the opening of the land route to Qamishli and note that this action would reduce costs substantially. However, the authors fail to acknowledge that it was the counter-terrorism efforts of the Syrian State and its forces that had made it possible to open that route and use it to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Moreover, the authors ignore the facilitation of the Syrian State and its institutions and the great efforts that they have been making to assist international organizations engaged in humanitarian work in the Syrian Arab Republic. Instead, the authors continue to pursue their systematic policy of making accusations.

The Syrian Government stresses that it alone is authorized to ensure the safety and security of Syrians and to protect them. It has a constitutional duty under national legislation and international law to fight the terrorism of Islamic State in

Please recycle

Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusrah Front and associated entities and terrorist individuals with numerous names and allegiances. Countering terrorism is essential to restoring security and stability, increasing the amount of assistance delivered and improving the humanitarian situation and living conditions of Syrians.

The Syrian Government reiterates that in the course of carrying out its counter-terrorism efforts, it has complied fully with the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law, particularly with regard to ensuring the security and safety of civilians and civilian facilities and objects, such as hospitals and schools. The Government is committed to international humanitarian law, which it seeks to disseminate and enforce. It has therefore strengthened the role of the Syrian National Committee on International Humanitarian Law and has organized numerous national activities and training sessions on international humanitarian law.

The Syrian Government is committed to the cessation of hostilities agreement that entered into force on 30 December 2016. The armed terrorist groups have not complied with that agreement at the behest of the radical governments of the region that support and finance them. As a result, hundreds of Syrians continue to be killed and injured.

The Syrian Government rejects the erroneous political messages and claims that the authors of the report put forward in order to accuse the Syrian Government of besieging or deliberately preventing aid from reaching parts of Syria. The Syrian Government stresses that national reconciliation agreements, such as those that were implemented in the Wa'r neighbourhood of Homs and other parts of Syria, have ended the suffering of thousands of civilians who had been used as human shields for years by armed terrorist groups and have contributed substantially to the reconstruction and improvement of service facilities. Those agreements protected the rights of the neighbourhoods' residents, civilians and armed individuals alike, who were given the choice of remaining in their neighbourhoods or heading for other areas. Indeed, hundreds of persons who had chosen to leave their areas returned to them, choosing to live under the protection of the Syrian State and return to their normal lives.

The report includes a list of 11 besieged areas. Upon reviewing that list, it is clear that it is the armed terrorist groups and their supporters who are responsible for besieging those areas, whether the siege is laid from outside those areas or from within. That list also demonstrates how the work of the United Nations and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been politicized. The suffering of the people of the besieged cities of Fu'ah and Kafraya at the hands of terrorist groups and their urgent need for assistance is completely ignored. Meanwhile, United Nations agencies have not taken any steps to deliver humanitarian assistance to them.

The Syrian Government rejects the erroneous accounts in the report of the aerial bombardment of health and educational facilities in southern Syria. The information on which those accounts are based is unreliable and the aim here is to level accusations against the Syrian Government.

The Syrian Government is disappointed that the authors of the report simply provide an account of the incident in which American aircraft downed a Syrian aircraft in Raqqah governorate, instead of describing it as an unjustified hostile action. Their failure to do so is all the more disappointing because the Syrian aircraft that was attacked was carrying out its duty to combat the ISIL terrorist organization.

The Government emphasizes that the authors of the report must use credible information sources and should refrain from relying on information provided by

"open sources", the sole aim of which is to malign the Syrian Government and wipe clean the ledger of the terrorist groups and their backers.

The Syrian Government reiterates that it rejects the authors' continued use of non-legal terminology and characterizations. For instance, the Secretariat refers to armed terrorist groups as "non-State armed opposition", despite understanding full well that those groups are connected with the terrorist groups ISIL and the Nusrah Front. Their conduct in that regard distorts reality and violates United Nations resolutions on combating terrorism.

The Syrian Government finds it deplorable that the authors have continued to promote the operations of the "international coalition" while deliberately ignoring the reality that the coalition has no legitimacy, that the Syrian Government never asked for it, and that the Security Council never authorized it. They also fail to mention the consequences of the coalition's acts of aggression, which have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent civilians and wreaked horrific damage on the infrastructure, including dams, bridges, hospitals, schools and oil wells. One of the most recent tragic examples of the coalition's criminal conduct occurred on 3 June 2017 when coalition aircraft bombed the Jamili Building in Raqqah city, killing at least 43 civilians, the majority of whom were children and women, and injuring dozens of others.

The Government finds it regrettable that the Secretariat fails to mention in its report the acts of aggression being committed by the Turkish regime and attempts to legitimize the actions of that regime and its allies in Syria, although those actions constitute a blatant attack against the sovereignty and territorial unity and integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and despite the fact that the regime is directly involved in supporting terrorism and prolonging the crisis.

The Syrian Government is disappointed that the authors relay a number of claims and accusations that have been levelled against it with regard to procedural and logistical matters related to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to unstable areas. It has facilitated the delivery of such assistance in every possible way, so long as the assistance is intended for Syrian civilians in need and its delivery is arranged for in accordance with the applicable Syrian laws and regulations.

The Syrian Government reiterates that it has approved most of the individual requests that the World Health Organization (WHO) has made to send assistance to various parts of Syria. Since the start of 2017, WHO has received authorizations to send assistance to the following areas: Adra al-Ummaliyah, the Assad suburb, Dayr Ali, Jabal al-Ward, Manin, Qastal, Badda, Rawdah, Sa'sa', Talfita, Bludan, Eastern Ghutah, Wadi Barada, Ayn al-Fijah, Qadsayya and Duma in Rif Dimashq governorate; Musaymah, Qunayyah and Khabab in Dar'a governorate; Qamishli in Hasakah governorate; and Mayadin in Dayr al-Zawr governorate. The Government has also approved a number of other requests made directly by WHO to deliver assistance to specific areas by means of its convoys operating as part of the inter-agency convoys. Contrary to the claims made in paragraph 24 of the report, the Syrian Government regularly approves the importation of medical supplies by inter-agency convoys, as well as requests submitted by United Nations organizations working in Syria. The Syrian Government has also been responding to requests to evacuate patients from areas described by the United Nations a "besieged or hard-to-reach", who are then transferred to Government hospitals to receive the necessary treatment. Last week, three children were taken out of Eastern Ghutah so that they could be treated at medical facilities in Damascus.

The Syrian Government finds it deplorable that OCHA officials have been remiss in making arrangements for convoys. They have focused exclusively on

areas that already receive monthly assistance, and have provided inaccurate figures regarding the number of convoys dispatched per month and the number of areas that are reached, in order to diminish the efforts of the Syrian Government.

The Syrian Government stresses that the figures provided by OCHA regarding humanitarian convoys are incorrect. Since the start 2017, some 48 humanitarian assistance convoys were dispatched to the following areas: Mu'addamiyah (7 January), eastern Mu'addamiyah (8 January), Tall (11 January), Dumayr (25 January), Talbisah (5 February), Rastan (12 February), Afrin (13 February), Ruhaybah (15 February), Dumayr (2 March), Rawdah and Zabadani (6 March), the Duma area and nearby towns (9 March), Sanamayn, Dayr al-Bukht and Muthabin (14 March), Fu'ah and Kafraya (14 March), Madaya and Zabadani (14 March), Wadi Barada (24 March), Talbisah (28 March), Bludan (28 March), Rastan (30 March), Khan al-Shih (30 March), Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham (8 April), Hulah (13 April), Harbinafsih, Aqrab, Tallaf and Khirbat al-Jami' (13 April), Tall Rif'at, Raju, Afrin, Kafr Jannah and Yakhur (14 April), Madaya and Buqayn (19 April), Dar al-Kabirah, Ghantu and Tayr Ma'lah (20 April), the Yarmouk camp (23 April), Duma and nearby towns (2 May), Wadi Barada, Barhila, Kafr al-Awamid, Suq Wadi Barada, Afrah, Dayr Muqrin, Dayr Qanun, Ayn al-Fijah, Hasaniyah and Kufayr al-Zayt (6 May), Kanakir (10 May), Qabun (16 May), Dumayr (20 May), Rastan (22 May), Jayrud, Nasiriyah and Atanah (22 May), Hulah (23 May), Ghantu, Tayr Ma'lah and Dar al-Kabirah (24 May), Qal'at al-Madiq (25 May), Kafr Zayta (25 May), Ruhaybah (3 June), Tall Rif'at, Raju, Afrin, Kafr Jannah and Yakhur (5 June), Barzah (9 June), Talbisah and Tulul al-Humr (15 June), eastern Harasta (19 June), Qabun (20 June), Rastan and surrounding areas (22 June), Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham (8 July), Hulah (15 July) and Harbinafsih (15 July). Some 412,580 families, that is to say more than 2 million persons, have received assistance.

The delay in dispatching certain conveys has been caused by the security situation in target areas and by the actions of armed terrorist groups and the fighting that has been going on among them. The terrorists groups have prevented convoys from entering, not allowed mines to be removed from the road and failed to agree on crossings. The convoys have been prevented from moving in order to ensure the safety and security of their personnel.

The Syrian Government stresses that the authors of the report and United Nations agencies operating in Syria must address the question of delivery of humanitarian aid in a precise and unbiased manner. We note that certain United Nations agencies are exaggerating needs in certain areas and requesting delivery of vast quantities of aid that are greatly out of line with the number of beneficiaries and their needs. Meanwhile, those same agencies deliver little or no assistance at all to other areas. Such conduct has, in several cases, led to waste of effort and funds, and allowed the goods being delivered to spoil and exceed their expiration date.

The Government reiterates that the United Nations must fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and should not pay heed or bow to the demands of other actors, such as the "local authorities" that the authors mention. The Organization must also not take any measures that could under any circumstances be interpreted as recognition of or legitimizing such actors.

The Syrian Government finds it deplorable that the Secretariat has once again failed to mention the economic, social, humanitarian, and medical suffering borne by the Syrian people as a result of the ongoing unilateral coercive economic measures imposed by the United States of America, the European Union and other States against such sectors as health, electricity, energy, trade, finance and transfer of funds, which are vital to the survival of the Syrian people and relief operations.

The Government stresses that by continuing to ignore this fundamental issue, the authors of the report will have to bear the responsibility of covering up the actions of States that, by imposing the above-mentioned measures, violate the Charter of the United Nations and the Organization's relevant resolutions. We remind you that monitoring the effects of such measures on the standard of living in and the prosperity of targeted States is one of the obligations imposed on the United Nations by the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

The Government is surprised that the authors continue to include incorrect information in the reports. It therefore reaffirms that it has granted approval for 26 international non-governmental organizations (not22, as stated in the report) to carry out humanitarian and relief work in Syria. Those organizations are given the assistance they need to carry out their work in accordance with the legislation and regulations in force in the Syrian Arab Republic. Moreover, the Government approved 90 applications for renewal of visas (not 54, as stated in the report). The Syrian Government also granted hundreds of entry visas to employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Syrian Government rejects the Secretariat's continual promotion of cross-border assistance, and reiterates that such assistance is ineffective, given that most of it falls into the hands of armed terrorist groups deployed in the targeted areas. The notifications sent to the Syrian Government do not meet the minimum standard of credibility with regard to figures, data, number of beneficiaries and information on the parties that receive and distribute assistance to civilian beneficiaries.

The Syrian Government reiterates that the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic cannot carry out its duty. In fact, it is not capable, to date, of verifying that cross-border assistance is reaching its rightful beneficiaries. We remind you that the Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salamah and Ramtha crossings are also entry points for arms, materiel and ammunition being smuggled to armed terrorist groups in Syria. The Government strongly rejects the authors' continued bias in favour of Turkey and Jordan when discussing the delivery of cross-border assistance. It reiterates that the Syrian Arab Red Crescent stands ready to monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance to its intended recipients, but the Secretariat has in the past rejected that proposal.

The Syrian Government reiterates its stated position regarding the International Criminal Court and the calls that have been made to refer the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to that Court, and stresses that the Court is not competent to address the situation in Syria. Moreover, the Court has lost all credibility and has been transformed into a political tool that is used by certain parties to attack specific States for sordid political ends that have nothing to do with the requirements of justice. The Government also reiterates the substance of the letter that it sent to the Secretary-General (A/71/799) regarding the serious legal flaws in General Assembly resolution 71/248 concerning the establishment of an International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

The Syrian Government regrets that the report does not call for action that would help to improve the situation in Syria, in particular the humanitarian situation. The Secretariat should frankly and clearly call on the regimes of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and other countries to refrain from supporting terrorism in Syria, frankly call on the European Union, the United States of America and other States to lift the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on Syria and call for those regimes that support terrorism and seek to undermine the foundations of a

political solution, prolong the crisis and drain Syria to be held accountable for their actions.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its long-standing position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on intra-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership without foreign intervention and without preconditions. It reminds the Secretariat that the success of the political process and any significant improvement in the humanitarian situation will depend, above all, on creating a climate conducive to a serious and non-politicized international and regional commitment to fighting terrorism in Syria and on an immediate end to the unilateral coercive economic measures being imposed on the Syrian people. The Syrian Government has played a constructive role in the success of the Astana and Geneva meetings.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to compel the States that support and finance armed terrorist groups to stop providing such groups with any form of support or financing, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism and the financing thereof, in particular resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). Compliance with and enforcement of those resolutions is the key to resolving the situation in Syria and delivering unprecedented humanitarian assistance to those in need.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2017/636

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 July 2017

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 10 July 2017 (S/2017/586) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) beyond 31 July 2017,

Noting the intention of the Secretary-General to report on his Good Offices in the next reporting period, *echoing* the Secretary-General's firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and *reaffirming* the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement,

Welcoming the commitments set out in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders' Joint Statement of 2 April 2017 on the basis of the Joint Declaration adopted on 11 February 2014, *further welcoming* the progress in negotiations since then, including the reconvening of the Conference on Cyprus under United Nations auspices in June 2017, the participants' commitment to support the process towards a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus, and the support provided by the Secretary-General and Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide,

Recalling the importance attached by the international community to all parties engaging fully, flexibly and constructively in negotiations to secure a settlement and *noting* that the recent Conference on Cyprus has not resulted in an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions, *encouraging* the sides to sustain their commitment to such a settlement, and *stressing* that the status quo is unsustainable,

Noting the need to advance the consideration of and discussions on military confidence-building measures, *calling for* renewed efforts to implement all remaining confidence-building measures, and for agreement on and implementation of further steps to build trust between the communities,

Reaffirming the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and encouraging the opening by mutual agreement of other crossing points,

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Convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits for all Cypriots, that would flow from a comprehensive and durable Cyprus settlement, *urging* the two sides and their leaders to foster positive public rhetoric, and *encouraging* them clearly to explain the benefits of the settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to secure it, to both communities well in advance of any referenda,

Highlighting the importance, both political and financial, of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of all parties concerned in taking practical steps towards helping the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to sustain their commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices; *taking note* of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and *urging* all sides to avoid any action, including violations of the military status quo, which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far, or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General's firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, *noting* the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, *noting also* proposals and discussions as well as positive initiatives on demining, and *urging* rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Commending the work of the Committee on Missing Persons, *highlighting* the importance of intensifying its activities, and therefore the need to provide all information required as expressed in the press release of the Committee on Missing Persons on 28 July 2016 regarding review of archival materials, *noting* that nearly half of all missing persons have yet to be located and around 61.5 per cent have yet to be identified, *urging* the opening up of access to all areas expeditiously to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and *trusting* that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that active participation of civil society groups, including women's groups, is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, *recalling* that women play a critically important role in peace processes, *welcoming* all efforts to promote bicommunal contacts and events including, inter alia, on the part of all United Nations bodies on the island, and *urging* the two sides to promote the active engagement of civil society and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Recognizing the need to regularly review all peacekeeping operations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, *including* a review of UNFICYP when appropriate, and *noting* the importance of transition planning in relation to the settlement, including recommendations as appropriate for further adjustments to the mandate of UNFICYP, force levels and other resources and concept of operations, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General, Special Representative Elizabeth Spehar, Special Adviser Espen Barth Eide,

Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP, and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and *expressing* appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to UNFICYP,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. *Welcomes* the progress of the leaders-led process since 11 February 2014 and the efforts of the leaders and their negotiators to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement, *notes* the outcome of the Conference on Cyprus and *encourages* the sides and all involved participants to sustain their commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/586);

3. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

4. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 2338 (2017), and *calls* upon the two leaders to:

(a) Put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;

(b) Continue to work with the Technical Committees with the objective of improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;

(c) Improve the public atmosphere for negotiation to secure a settlement, including by focussing public messages on convergences and the way ahead, and delivering more constructive and harmonised messages; and

(d) Increase the participation of civil society in the process as appropriate;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to maintain transition planning in relation to a settlement, guided by progress in negotiations, and encourages the sides to engage with each other, as well as with UNFICYP and the United Nations Good Offices mission in this regard;

6. *Urges* the implementation of confidence-building measures, and *looks forward* to agreement on and implementation of further such mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of crossing points already agreed upon and others, that can contribute to a conducive environment for a settlement;

7. *Welcomes* all efforts to accommodate the Committee on Missing Persons' exhumation requirements as well as the joint appeal for information issued by the two leaders on 28 May 2015, and *calls upon* all parties to provide more expeditious, full access to all areas, given the need to intensify the Committee's work;

8. *Expresses* its full support for UNFICYP and *decides* to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 January 2018;

9. *Calls* on both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of UNFICYP, in consultations with UNFICYP on the demarcation of the buffer zone, and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;

10. *Calls* on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

11. *Calls* on both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and *urges* both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a strategic review of UNFICYP focused on findings and recommendations for how UNFICYP should be optimally configured to implement its existing mandate, based exclusively on rigorous evidence-based assessment of the impact of UNFICYP activities, and further requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of this review when appropriate within four months of the adoption of this resolution;

13. *Expresses* its full support for the Secretary-General in continuing to keep his Good Offices at the disposal of the parties, and *requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of this resolution by 10 January 2018 and to keep the Security Council updated on events as necessary;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNFICYP to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and *urges* troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2017/637

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 22-25 July 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) P. **Ilichev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-12968 (E) 010817 020817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (22 July 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: four in Damascus, one in Aleppo and one in Ladhiqiyah.

The Turkish representative office has reported five violations in Damascus governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, six ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas in Homs governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,043.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Seven observations posts and two checkpoints have been established in de-escalation area No. 4 to monitor implementation of the ceasefire regime.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (23 July 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported three incidents of gunfire in Damascus governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported two violations in Damascus governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out seven humanitarian operations: six in Aleppo city, where 2 tons of food parcels were delivered to the local population; and one in Ladhiqiyah governorate, where 0.8 tons of food parcels were delivered to the local population.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo was 2.8 tons.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 890 people.

In total, 1,521 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 262 people.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,043.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (24 July 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire in Damascus governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any violations.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out three humanitarian operations in Aleppo city, where 3.6 tons of drinking water were delivered to the local population.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,130 people.

In total, 1,524 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 277 people.

One United Nations humanitarian operation was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,043.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (25 July 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire: four in Ladhiqiyah governorate and two in Aleppo governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported 11 violations in the following governorates: 7 in Damascus, 2 in Homs, 1 in Hama and 1 in Ladhiqiyah.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out four humanitarian operations, including: in Aleppo city, where 3.6 tons of drinking water were delivered to the local population; and in Barari Fawqani in Aleppo governorate, where 1.7 tons of food products were delivered to the local population.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo was 5.3 tons.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,667 people.

In total, 1,528 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 184 people.

One United Nations humanitarian operation was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with the populated areas of Baris, Rasm-al-Niyas and Abu al-Zuhur in Idlib governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,046.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

United Nations S/2017/638

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter dated 24 July 2017 on humanitarian access in the Syrian Arab Republic from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Julian Braithwaite (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**

17-12963 (E) 020817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We, representatives of some of the permanent missions in Geneva that attend weekly meetings of the Task Force on Humanitarian Access, recall the relevant resolutions of the Security Council concerning humanitarian access in the Syrian Arab Republic, namely resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016) and 2332 (2016). We are writing to raise a number of serious concerns about the implementation of those resolutions.

We remain extremely concerned that the United Nations is being excluded from sending humanitarian convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach areas inside Syria. The trend has worsened significantly in recent months. According to the United Nations, only two United Nations-supported convoys have been able to gain access to territory besieged by the Syrian authorities since April 2017.

We are very concerned at the continued lack of cross-line humanitarian deliveries, protection of civilians, medical access and freedom of movement in those areas. In its resolution 2139 (2014), the Council clearly articulated its unanimous demands concerning not only humanitarian access, but also the requirement that all parties comply with international humanitarian law. Medical and other aid is urgently needed by the population. We must also see the Syrian authorities fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law.

We urge the Council to underline to States Members of the United Nations, in particular the Syrian authorities: (a) the protections enjoyed by civilians and medical missions under international humanitarian law; and (b) the need for the United Nations to determine the planning, delivery and monitoring of cross-line humanitarian assistance. We hope the Council will help secure unimpeded United Nations humanitarian access to all areas of the Syrian Arab Republic.

We hope you will be able to raise urgently this vital issue at the next Council meeting and that the Council will take action pursuant to resolution 2139 (2014), given the stated intent of the Council to "take further steps in the case of non-compliance" with that resolution.

Julian **Braithwaite**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Elisabeth **Laurin**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and other international organizations in Switzerland

Antje **Leendertse**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Maurizio Enrico Luigi **Serra**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Junichi **Ihara**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Monique **van Daalen**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ali Khalfan **Al-Mansouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Abdulaziz **Alwasil**
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Peter **Sørensen**
Ambassador and Head
Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Victorio **Redondo Baldrich**
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Tanya **Bennett**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

John **Davison**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva

Berk **Baran**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva
and other international organizations in Switzerland

Theodore **Allegra**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the
United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva